



Message from Fire Chief Douglas A. Holton:

The Milwaukee Fire Department achieved many goals in 2008. The department reported six fire fatalities last year, down from 14 in 2007. The last time the department has seen such a significant decline was in 1998 when fire fatalities were 5, from 15 the previous year.

In 2008, almost 95 percent of gunshot victims transported by Milwaukee firefighters and life support teams survived, and all stabbing victims that the MFD treated lived. The department maintains an impressive 97 percent success rate for saving victims of life-threatening, penetrating trauma (shootings and stabbings).

I am proud of the MFD's 2008 success stories and look forward to achieving continued success in 2009.

I attribute all of the department's success to the diligent efforts of each one of our members. Their tenacity and valor will never be forgotten by the citizens of Milwaukee.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Holton

MFD HOT NEWS

The Milwaukee Fire Department Fire Fatalities in 2008 Drop 58 Percent from 2007

The Milwaukee Fire Department (MFD) reports six fire fatalities in 2008—the lowest seen since 2002. Fire fatalities in the City of Milwaukee are down from 14 in 2007, a 58 percent decrease. Mayor Tom Barrett and Chief Douglas Holton held a press conference to announce the news January 5, 2009. Chief Holton said he attributes the decrease to the MFD's excellent response times, nationally recognized EMS services, and the skilled firefighters' level of expertise and valiant rescue efforts. An increase in community outreach efforts has also greatly contributed to the fire death rate decreasing in the past year.

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett Praises Fire Chief Douglas A. Holton and his Staff For the 58 Percent Decline in Fire Fatalities in 2008



Dear Chief Holton:

On behalf of the City of Milwaukee, I would like to congratulate you on the decrease in fire fatalities in 2008.

A 58 percent decrease in deaths does not happen overnight, and I thank you for your commitment to ensuring that the Milwaukee Fire Department is fully equipped with state-of-the-art gear and trained to act quickly in dangerous situations. I also applaud your efforts to reach out to the community and increase fire safety knowledge. Both the Milwaukee Fire Education Center's Survive Alive House and smoke detector giveaways have been extremely successful.

I would also like to thank all of the city's firefighters and paramedics who risk their lives to keep Milwaukee residents safe. Their efforts have undoubtedly contributed to this decrease in fire fatalities.

Congratulations again on the decrease in fatalities from fires. Your dedication to protecting Milwaukee residents is very much appreciated. I look forward to continued success in the future.

Sincerely,

Tom Barrett
Mayor

The Milwaukee Fire Department began its Return to Work (RTW) program January 25, 2009. The program allows members on injury leave to report for duty on their regularly scheduled work days and participate in assigned activities based on their physical capabilities. The RTW Program has four distinct goals:

1. Maintain an active relationship between the department and injured members.
2. Provide injured members with resources to enhance rehabilitation and physical fitness.
3. Facilitate injured members' return to full duty.
4. Improve services for the City of Milwaukee.

Members in the RTW program are governed by the standard rules and regulations of the Milwaukee Fire Department including, but not limited to, hours of duty, uniform, grooming policies, etc. Members assigned to the RTW program also are compensated at their standard rate of pay.

Specific assignments are made by the RTW Program Administrator through the Firefighting Deputy Chief and respective Battalion Chief. Examples of assignments include attending training cycles, helping with Project FOCUS and the Survive Alive House, assisting bureaus with specific projects/assignments, and much more.



MFD Lieutenant David Anderson and Firefighter Kristen Ciganek teach Project Staying Alive to a class of sixth graders at Victory School.

Project Staying Alive

Project Staying Alive is a program made possible by the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative. The program, which is 100 percent grant funded, allows Milwaukee firefighting personnel to teach Milwaukee-area students proper anger management techniques and conflict resolution skills. The Milwaukee

Fire Department (MFD) believes that by implementing this program in Milwaukee Public Schools, it will help reduce violent injuries in the City of Milwaukee.

"Milwaukee firefighters are first to arrive on the scene of any shooting, stabbing and/or violent injury in the City," said Lt. Steven Riegg, director of Project Staying Alive.

"As a firefighter, these runs are the worst runs you can go on, especially when a child is involved. Therefore, our department is making an effort to decrease violence in our communities."

The MFD taught approximately 500 sixth-grade students anger management skills in 2008, and hope to teach 1,000 more students in 2009, followed by 2,000 more in 2010.

Project Staying Alive entails five 90-minute sessions. Students are taught three of the sessions by their teachers—who are trained ahead of time on conflict resolution. MFD firefighting personnel teach the other two sessions.

Kristi Cole, who manages the MPS Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative, stated, "Students are responding well to firefighters in the classroom teaching nonviolence. They are learning how to talk to their friends when they disagree, how to avoid fights and arguments, and lastly, how to work through conflicts peacefully."

Maritza Cortez, a 12 year old who completed the program, said she will share what she learned in Project Staying Alive with children in her neighborhood.

Another student who completed the program, 11-year-old Daniel Decker, said, "When a bad situation comes, I will take a deep breath and walk away...a lesson I was taught by a firefighter. You never know if that other person who is starting the argument or fight has a gun. So, I'll take that firefighter's advice and just walk away."

"The Milwaukee Fire Department (MFD) believes that by implementing this program in Milwaukee Public Schools, it will help reduce violent injuries in the City of Milwaukee."

Milwaukee Fire Department Personnel Collaboratively Save Three People From a Burning Home



On December 12, 2008, MFD firefighters were called to a house fire at 932 East Hadley Street at 3:40 p.m. Upon arrival, the 2 1/2 story, wood-frame home had fire in the upper unit's living room. The fire hindered three occupants from escaping the home. Engine Com-

pany 18 extinguished the fire in the stairwell leading to the upper unit's living room, and Engine Company 10 immediately went in and rescued an adult male who had to be resuscitated. Ladder Company 12 rescued an adult woman through a window and brought her to safety via a ground ladder. The woman, who suffered from smoke inhalation and was not breathing, was revived by the crew of Engine Company 6 and Paramedic Unit 14.

Ladder Company 5 and Ladder Company 10 found and rescued a child in the home, who also was not breathing due to suffering from smoke inhalation. Engine 21 revived the child with the help of paramedics from MED 5 and MED 6.

All three occupants were transported to the hospital by MFD paramedics, and revived before arrival due to the diligent efforts of all the crew members on scene. Each patient was also in stable condition upon arrival to the hospital.

If it wasn't for the outstanding teamwork MFD personnel exemplified on that given day, Milwaukee could have had three more fire fatalities in 2008.

We sincerely thank all the crew members from the companies that responded to 932 East Hadley Street for their bravery and heroism. It resulted in three lives saved.

Patrick Cudahy Makes a Generous Donation to the Milwaukee Fire Department Regional Hazardous Materials Team

Patrick Cudahy, a Wisconsin-based company offering a full line of premium pork products and premium deli meats, donated a new Manning Ammonia Meter, worth \$3000, to the Milwaukee Fire Department Regional Hazardous Materials Team February 25, 2009. The meter is an air-monitoring tool that detects ammonia and chlorine.

A relationship was developed between Patrick Cudahy and the Milwaukee Fire Department through Battalion Chief Thomas Jones and Lieutenant Russ Rivard. The two helped train the company in effectively handling hazardous materials. Jones and Rivard are part of a larger group of off-duty MFD members who train companies in the handling of hazardous materials through a company called Emergency Response Specialists (ERS). Patrick Cudahy has one of the largest anhydrous ammonia systems (approximately 200,000 pounds) in Wisconsin. The company asked ERS to recommend a new meter that detects ammonia, and graciously purchased the recommendation—a Manning Meter for their company as well as one for the Milwaukee Regional Hazardous Materials Team.



The MFD Hazardous Materials team is proud to have Patrick Cudahy in its response area, and looks forward to maintaining a longstanding relationship with the company. On behalf of the MFD Hazardous Materials Team, we thank Patrick Cudahy for its generosity.



Courage • Integrity • Honor

The Milwaukee Fire Department (MFD) is the primary fire suppression, prevention, rescue and emergency medical service for the City of Milwaukee. The department's motto is "Courage, Integrity and Honor." MFD consists of approximately 1000 firefighters, many of which serve simultaneously as paramedics providing emergency medical services. MFD is known as one of the best fire departments nationwide for its response times and other quality services.

Check us out on the Web!
www.milwaukee.gov/mfd

SUBMISSIONS

We welcome submissions to MFD Hot News on upcoming events, unique runs, stories pertaining to saving someone's life or property, our MFD heroes and heroines, and/or anything worthy of recognition.

This newsletter is quarterly and a means to broadcast the excellent work done by the Milwaukee Fire Department. Let our story be told!

If you have a story idea, please e-mail the Public Relations Manager, Tiffany Wynn, at ttwynn@milwaukee.gov. Thank you.

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MFD HOT NEWS

**AFTER THE
BUCKS GAME
BLUE AND RED
WILL GO
HEAD-TO-HEAD!**



VS.



**WHO WILL HAVE
THE BRAGGING
RIGHTS FOR
2009?**



City of Milwaukee Fire & Police Day

SUNDAY, MARCH 15th

VS. BOSTON CELTICS @ NOON

Featuring Ray Allen, Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce



\$29 TICKETS FOR \$10!

\$37 TICKETS FOR \$15!

\$61 LOWER LEVEL TICKETS FOR \$30!

STAY AFTER THE GAME AND SHOOT A FREE THROW ON COURT!

**MFD AND MPD WILL BE PLAYING IN AN
INAUGURAL BASKETBALL GAME ON THE
BRADLEY CENTER COURT FOLLOWING THE
CONCLUSION OF THE BUCKS GAME!**

For more information or to order tickets contact:
John Hummitzsch at 414-227-0594 or jhummitzsch@bucks.com